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FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 134
TO WINSTON LORD FOR DR. KISSINGER
ZEM

UNCLAS WH29867 SECTION ONE

25X1

TOHAK 134

WEEKEND NEWS REVIEW

DECEMBER 11, 1972

THE MAJOR SUNDAY STORIES:

- HAK PREPARES TO MEET W/LE DUC THO MONDAY FOLLOWING SUNDAY
SESSION OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS WHO APPARENTLY DISCUSSED THE DRAFT
IN GREAT DETAIL.ENEMY ATTACKS DECLINED SHARPLY IN SVN WHILE
US BOMBING REMAINED HEAVY.ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK WOULD
LIKE TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SVN'S RECONSTRUCTION -- AND PER-
HAPS NVN'S AS WELL.

- HST IS REMOVED FROM "CRITICAL" LIST AND MOVED TO "SERIOUS"
AS HIS CONDITION IMPROVES.

- APOLLO 17 IS ABOVE THE MOON AND PREPARING TO LAND MONDAY AT
2:45 P.M.

- TANAKA'S PARTY RACKED UP EASY VICTORY IN JAPAN'S PARLIAMENTARY
ELECTIONS.INDONESIA FACES A RICE SHORTAGE THAT COULD LEAD TO
THAT COUNTRY'S WORST CRISIS SINCE SUKARNO'S FALL.

ON-FILE NSC
RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

- THE ~~1~~ No Objection to Declassification in Part 2010/08/06 : LOC-HAK-248-1-7-8

AFTER WESTWOOD RESIGNS "VOLUNTARILY." LEADS SUN, POST, STAR,
TIMES. HAIG RETURNS HOME TO BRIEF RN W/ SPECULATION
"CAUTIOUSLY POSITIVE." SOVIETS W/ SEEMINGLY MAJOR PLEDGE OF
MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO NVN... KROGH/WHITAKER APPTS AS
UNDERSECYS OF DOT AND INTERIOR RESPECTIVELY LED THE SAT. STAR
AND THERE ARE WIDESPREAD REPORTS THAT MOYNIHAN WILL BE NAMED
AMB. TO INDIA. AND POST SAYS MALEK WILL BE DEPUTY OF OMB.
.... ASTRONAUTS CONTINUE ON COURSE W/ OVERSLEEP UNAFFECTING THE
MISSION. US PROBES UNITED CRASH IN WHICH 45 DIED, INCLUDING
CONG. COLLINS (D-ILL), 29 YEAR OLD CBS REPORTER MICHELE CLARK
AND MRS. HOWARD HUNT WHO HAD \$10,000 IN CASH W/ HE

- 6 OF OUR 7 SAT. PAPERS LED W/ THE CHICAGO PLANE CRASH. THE
TIMES LED W/: "JOBLESS RATE DIPS TO LEVEL OF 5.2 PERCENT, LOWEST
SINCE '70" AND ITS SUBHEADS HILITE THE STIX: "RESPONDED TO
STRONG ECONOMY -- WAS AT 5.5 PERCENT FOR 5 MONTHS" / "WHITE ADULTS
BENEFIT" / "ALMOST NO GAINS REPORTED FOR PART-TIME WORKERS, BLACKS,
AND TEENS." STORY IS P. 1 OR PROMINENT INSIDE ELSEWHERE..... THE
OTHER MAJOR SAT. PRESS STORIES: KLEINDIENST STAYS ON W/ MAJOR
CHANGES BELOW.... HST STILL CRITICAL.... LIFE DIES.... IRISH AND
CATHOLIC CHURCH'S FAVORED STATUS IN MOVE DESIGNED TO SPUR
REUNION W/ PROTESTANT NORTH.... APOLLO 17 CONTINUES ON COURSE....
7 HIJACKERS KILLED IN MID-AIR GUN-BATTLE OVER ETHIOPIA. THE
VN TALKS WERE P. 1 ONLY IN SUN BUT MOST INSIDE STORIES CARRY HAK-
THO PHOTO.... REVENUE-SHARING CHECKS ARE PROMINENTLY REPORTED
INSIDE W/ EMPHASIS ON ERRORS MADE IN INITIAL PROJECTIONS.

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2010/08/06 : LOC-HAK-248-1-7-8

EACE TALKS

REASONS GIVEN FOR CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM OVER PROGRESS TOWARDS A SETTLEMENT INCLUDE: 1) HAK'S REMAINING IN PARIS WHILE HAIG BRIEFED RN; 2) THE 6-HOUR MEETING BY TECHNICAL EXPERTS OF BOTH SIDES AS THEY APPARENTLY ARE GOING OVER THE DRAFT WORD-BY-WORD; 3) THE UNEXPECTED ARRIVAL IN PARIS OF NVN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER NGAI.

ON CBS COLLINGWOOD NOTED HAK'S VIEW THAT IN ALL NEGOTIATIONS W/ COMMUNISTS, THERE'S ALWAYS A HITCH JUST BEFORE THE END. THERE CERTAINLY WAS A HITCH LAST WEEK, SAID CHARLES WHO NOTED THAT THE TECHNICAL TALKS HELD SUN. HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ENVISAGED AS THE NEXT-TO-LAST STAGE BEFORE PRINCIPALS AGREE. THEN COMES CONSULTATION W/ ALLIES AND SIGNING 2 WEEKS LATER. BIG STUMBLING BLOCK IS TO ASSURE SVN THAT SOME NVA WILL BE REMOVED -- IF THAT'S SETTLED, THE END OF THE LONG NEGOTIATIONS TO THIS LONG, LONG WAR MAY BE APPROACHING AN END, SAID HOPEFUL COLLINGWOOD.

PROGRESS IS CALLED "PAINFULLY SLOW" BUT THERE'S NO IMMINENT DANGER OF BREAKDOWN.FRANCE'S SCHUMANN SAID PRESS IS TOO PESSIMISTIC. THE POST CALLS SCHUMANN "A PERENNIAL OPTIMIST." AND IT NOTES THAT ALONG W/THE HOPEFUL INDICATIONS, "PARIS WAS ALSO ABUZZ W/RUMORS OF CONTINUING STUMBLING BLOCKS." THE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER HAK OR HAIG VISIT TO THIEU TO BE FOLLOWED BY MORE TALKS W/ NVN IS ALSO REPORTED BY POST'S RANDAL.HAIG'S STAYOVER IN DC THRU MON. HAS CAUSED SPECULATION THAT HE MAY GO TO SAIGON NEXT.

NBC'S No Objection to Declassification in Part 2010/08/06 : LOC-HAK-248-1-7-8 OUT

ANYONE KNOWING HOW CLOSE OR FAR AWAY PEACE STILL IS. FILM OF HAK
AT MUSEUM. NOTING NEITHER DELEGATION WOULD SAY WHAT TECHNICAL
MEETING MIGHT MEAN, DOBYNS POINTED OUT LAST TECHNICAL MEETING WAS
OCT. 12 AND DRAFT AGREEMENT WAS REACHED 5 DAYS LATER.

APPARENT PROBLEMS OVER THE ICC'S STATUS ARE REFLECTED IN
COMMENT BY CANADA'S SHARP: "THE TERMS OF THE BASIC PEACE PROTOCOL
HAVEN'T BEEN NEGOTIATED. WE HAVE NO POINT OF REFERENCE ON
WHICH TO BASE OUR PARTICIPATION..."

NVN DECLARED THAT US FAILURE TO SIGN MADE NVN REALIZE IT
COULDN'T ACHIEVE ITS GOALS "W/OUT CONTINUING THE FIGHT." HANOI
SAID ITS "DIVINE OBLIGATION (IS) TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT AND
LEAD REVOLUTION...TO TOTAL VICTORY." NVN CHARGED US W/"INTRAN-
SIGENCE" AND ADOPTING AN "EQUIVOCAL AND TREACHEROUS ATTITUDE"
IN REFUSING TO SIGN.

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IMPATIENCE OVER THE TALKS IS "UNDERSTANDABLE BUT IMPRUDENT", SAYS RICHARD WILSON. "FOR UNLESS THIS NEGOTIATION TRULY SUCCEEDS IN PREVENTING A COMMUNIST TAKEOVER, RN WILL SUFFER A FAILURE OF SUCH PROPORTIONS THAT HIS PLACE IN HISTORY WILL BE SEVERELY DAMAGED." IF BY '74 OR '76 ALL THAT RESULTS IS ROUGHLY THE SAME AS MCG'S SO-CALLED "SURRENDER," THE "RN POLICY WILL BE EXPOSED TO ATTACK AS ONE OF THE GREATEST FRAUDS IN HISTORY." NVA W/DRAWAL IS ONE REQUIREMENT WILSON FEELS IS IN ORDER - EVEN IF IT TAKES MORE TIME TO WORK IT OUT.

THE VC'S MME BINH SAID "SOLDIERS WHO ARE NATIVES OF THE NORTH AND DEMOBILIZED IN THE SOUTH SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES." SULLIVAN OF SUN SAYS "SOME SEIZED ON THE ODD FORMULATION AS A POSSIBLE KEY TO THE PROBLEM BEDEVILLING THE TALKS FOR WEEKS...."

GVN SOURCES SAY THIEU WILL REORGANIZE HIS ADMIN. AND LABEL IT "NATL SOLIDARITY GOVT."....NBC NOTED THIEU MAY EXPAND HIS CABINET TO INCLUDE OTHER ANTI-COMMUNISTS PARTIES, IN EFFORT TO BROADEN HIS BASE BEFORE A CEASE-FIRE.

SVN IS NOW BRACING ITSELF FOR THE US TO MAKE A SEPARATE DEAL
No Objection to Declassification in Part 2010/08/06 : LOC-HAK-248-1-7-8
W/ NVN AND PULL OUT," SAYS THE STAR'S BRADSHER. BUT PRESSURE
CONTINUES ON THIEU TO SIGN -- NOT ONLY FROM US, BUT REPORTEDLY
ALSO FROM INDONESIA AND CANADA WHO SAY THEY'LL NOT JOIN THE ICC
UNLESS SVN SIGNS.... UPI LEADS: "FOR THE PAST 6 WEEKS SVN HAS BEEN
GETTING USED TO THE IDEA OF A CEASE-FIRE GIKE SOMEONE SHAKING
HIMSELF AWAKE FROM A NIGHTMARE. THE VIETS PROBABLY WILL NOT COME
FULLY AWAKE UNTIL THERE IS A THUNDERBOLT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM PARIS,
WASH, HANOI OR SAIGON." ONE WIDELY-VOICED PREDICTION IS THAT
THIEU WILL ACCEPT CURRENT TERMS, BUT W/A SHOW OF GREATEST
RELUCTANCE AND RESERVE. SVN MOOD IS ONE OF "PESSIMISTIC EXPECTANCY...
OF HOPING NOT TOO STRONGLY FOR PEACE, SINCE NEARLY EVERYONE HERE
HAS SEEN PEACE GO GLIMMERING BEFORE AND IN ANY CASE ISN'T QUITE
SURE IT WILL BRING. IT IS A MOOD THAT BRACES AGAINST POSSIBILITY
OF CONTINUED WAR," SAYS UPI, "BUT NOT TOO RELUCTANTLY, SINCE W/ ALL
ITS EVILS WAR HAS BEEN A KNOWN QUANTITY FOR 30 YEARS."

SUN'S CORDDRY, ON NET, THINKS INTELLIGENCE REPORTS SHOW REASONS
FOR THIEU'S CONCERN OVER CEASE-FIRE. NVA PLANS TO "DEMOBILIZE"
W/ "VOLUNTEERS" GOING INTO VC UNITS AND INTO VILLAGES AS CIVILIANS.
ONE OF MOST INTERESTING REPORTS SHOWS NVA CONTINUING MILITARY
RATHER THAN POLITICAL STRUGGLE IN WHICH THIEU WILL BE THROWN OUT
ABOUT 2 MONTHS AFTER CEASE-FIRE. CORDDRY ISN'T SURE NVN HAS
CAPABILITY TO DO THIS, AND US DOUBTS SUCH CAPABILITY. CORDDRY
IS SURE THESE INTELLIGENCE REPORTS ARE INFLUENCING THIEU'S
POSITION, BUT HE THINKS MOST THIEU CAN DO IS DELAY CEASE-FIRE.
CORDDRY THINKS IT INCONCEIVABLE NVN WILL QUIT EFFORTS TO TAKE
OVER SVN BECAUSE OF CEASE-FIRE.

SURVIVAL, NEITHER DOES IT GUARANTEE A HANOI TAKEOVER. THE LATTER
MAY ULTIMATELY OCCUR W/IN THE RN-HAK FORMULA, BUT ONLY, SAYS
SHERMAN, "BY THE TACTICS OF GRADUALISM GEARED TO MAINTAINING,
NOT DISRUPTING, THE FRAGILE POWER BALANCE IN ASIA."

THIMMESCH W/A SYMPATHETIC COLUMN ON THE DIFFICULT WEEKS FOR
HAK SINCE OCT. 26 AS HE HAS COME UNDER FIRE FROM ALL SIDES.
THIMMESCH EMPHASIZES HAK'S HARD WORK AND THAT OF PARTNER HAIG --
BOTH "HAVE GIVEN MUCH IN THE PAST 4 YEARS."

UPI LEADS: "A PEACE SETTLEMENT WILL NOT COME IN TIME FOR POWS
TO BE HOME BY XMAS, BUT RN WOULD LIKE TO SEE SOME OF THEM 'DANCE
AT HIS INAUGURAL BALL,' ACCORDING TO CORA WEISS." SHE SAID
"CONFIRMATION" OF THIS CAME WHEN NVN SAID XMAS MAIL COULD BE SENT
TO POWS. SHE CALLED HAK'S "PEACE AT HAND" A DECEPTIVE TACTIC TO
SATISFY TEMPORARILY THE US DESIRE FOR PEACE AND "RN IS NOT UNDER
ANY PRESSURE RIGHT NOW TO PRODUCE." BUT WEISS EXPECTS CEASE-FIRE
SIGNING BY JAN. 19.

MME. BINH RENEWED DEMANDS FOR LIBERATION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS
BY SVN, AN ISSUE SHELVED BY NVN IN DRAFTING OF ACCORD. BINH
HINTED AS LONG AS THEY ARE HELD, THE VC WOULD REFUSE TO RELEASE
UP TO 200 US POWS BELIEVED HELD IN VC CAMPS.

IN INFREQUENT TIME GIVEN HIM BY NETS, CBS W/2 MINUTE REPORT AS
"REMEMBER THE PUEBLO" CHMN. LINDSTROM SAID HE'S LEARNED FROM
SVN SOURCES THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE PROVIDED FOR RELEASE OF ONLY
378 MILITARY POWS, 13 CIVILIAN POWS AND ACCOUNTING OF 117 MIAS.
LINDSTROM SAID "2 HI-RANKING ARVN" OFFICERS BELIEVE HUNDREDS OF
US POWS WILL NOT BE FREED IF AGREEMENT NOW BEING DEBATED IS
SIGNED. (LINDSTROM SAID HE IS AWAITING OUTCOME OF TALKS, AND
IF AGREEMENT DOESN'T MEET HIS APPROVAL HE SAYS HE CAN EMPLOY
COMMANDOS TO LIBERATE SOME OF POWS.) CBS SAID LINDSTROM'S INFO
COULD BE WRONG, BUT HE'S BEEN RIGHT BEFORE ON PUEBLO AND ON
SECRET HAK TALKS IN MOSCOW, SO HE CAN'T BE DISCOUNTED.

SUN'S PARKS SEES THE NEW USSR-NVN AID ACCORD PLACING MORE
EMPHASIS ON POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION THAN ON RE-ARMAMENT.